

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 24
10/2/2014



Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.



TROUT- FALL TROUT STOCKINGS CONTINUE.

DEEP's fall trout stockings are ongoing. From mid-September through mid-October, DEEP is releasing 30,000 trophy and adult sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 14,000 are trophy size brown trout (all greater than 12 inches in length) and the remaining 16,000 adults are standard size (9-10 inch) rainbow trout. This week DEEP expects to stock 12,000 adult trout (500 brown trout and 11,500 rainbow trout). **Note that stockings in both eastern and western CT continue to be delayed due to environmental conditions (low flows in streams).**

Rivers and streams stocked this week: In western CT, the **Housatonic River TMA** (5,000 rainbow trout). No rivers and streams were stocked this week due to low flows in eastern CT.

Lakes and ponds stocked this week: **Black Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Rogers Lake** (200 rainbow trout), **Quonnipaug Lake** (200 rainbow trout), **Amos Lake** (200 rainbow trout), **Beach Pond** (600 rainbow trout), **Bigelow Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Black Pond** (Woodstock) (200 rainbow trout), **Cedar Lake** (200 rainbow trout), **Crystal Lake** (500 rainbow trout), **Gardner Lake** (500 rainbow trout), **Long Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Mashapaug Lake** (600 rainbow trout), **Wangumbaug Lake** (Coventry Lake) (500 rainbow trout) and **Wauregan Reservoir** (200 rainbow trout) in eastern CT and **Mount Tom Pond** (300 brown trout) and **Stillwater Pond** (200 brown trout) in western CT.

Trout Parks stocked this week: The **Mohegan Park Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Chatfield Hollow** (200 rainbow trout), **Valley Falls Park Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Day Pond** (200 rainbow trout), **Wharton Brook Pond** (400 rainbow trout), **Great Hollow Pond** (400 rainbow trout) and **Black Rock Pond** (400 rainbow trout) Trout Parks.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Places to try include West Hill Pond, Beach Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington, try near the outlet), West Side Pond, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake (near inlets), Mount Tom Pond, Stillwater Pond and Mohawk Pond.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Mixed conditions are in the bag for this weekend, with some much-needed rain in the forecast for Saturday and sunny, cool and breezy conditions for Sunday. Currently, despite the rain and clouds this week leading to some improvement, flows in a number of areas (especially in eastern CT) continue to be below typical levels for the early fall (see *stream flow graphic on page 4*). Anglers are reminded that many streams typically stocked in the fall have not yet been stocked due to flow conditions. The good reports continue from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River and Housatonic River.

At this time of the year streamers will often be very important to have in the vest. Popular patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Mickey Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Try white, yellow and brown colors. Try bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.



Farmington River - Trout fishing remains good. West Branch water temperatures are in the low 60s°F and flows are clear, moderate and very fishable, currently 159 cfs at Riverton and the Still River adding another 95 cfs (this increase in Still River flows are mostly due to the start of the Highland Lake drawdown). An 8 foot 6 inch 4-weight fly rod with a 12 foot leader and 6X tippet is suggested for current flows.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Light Cahill (#12-14), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, mid-day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-26, midday, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – Trout fishing has been good. Flows are clear, easy to wade and low, currently 209 cfs at Falls Village and 268 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F. A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for this flow.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-26, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 mid-afternoon to evening), Cahills/Summer (#12-14, evenings), Summer Sulfurs (#16-18; evenings) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Terrestrial patterns such as Black Beetles (#14-18, midday), Stone Hopper (#8-10, midday) and Flying Ants (#16-18, midday, when windy/humid) are also great producers.

ATLANTIC SALMON – Last week DEEP is beginning the 2014 autumn stockings of Atlantic salmon by stocking 500 Atlantic salmon into Mount Tom Pond (100 fish), the upper Naugatuck River (100 fish), the lower Naugatuck River (50 fish) Crystal Lake (125 fish) and Beach Pond (125 fish). The Shetucket River was not being stocked with salmon last week due to low flows (Beach Pond is instead being stocked).

This first group of Atlantic salmon being released range in weight from 2-5 pounds each. Later this month, approximately 500 additional fish in the same size range and nearly 50 larger fish in the 3 to 14 pound will be available for stocking. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects several hundred additional salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. These fish will range in weight from 3 to 14 pounds each. *For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair. Waters to try include Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, East Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Highland Lake, Ball Pond, Congamond Lakes, Wononskopomuc

Lake, Woodcreek Pond, Hatch Pond, Gardner Lake, West Hill Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, Lake of Isles, Stillwater Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Lake Waramaug, Lake Zoar, Bishop Swamp Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Moosup Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Hayward Lake, Cedar Lake, Morey Pond, Mono Pond, Moodus Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake and Billings Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (fair to good early bite, slow after the sun came out for one club, tough for another club, and no size for anyone with only 2.76 lb and 2.61 lb lunkers), Powers Lake (fair action, not size although the lunker was 4.0 lbs), Quaddick Lake (fair to good action, but “lots of small bags,” with a 4.8 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (hard finding many, with 4.91 and 4.5 lb lunkers reported and Housatonic Lake (fair fishing for largemouth, with a 5.1 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, the Naugatuck River and Coventry Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (on the slow side, lunkers included 3.9 smallie), Gardner Lake (very few caught) and Lake Housatonic (very few caught).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported in Winchester Lake, Pachaug Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lake Zoar, Bantam Lake (fish in the 3-5 lb range) and Lake Lillinonah (although new to fishing Lilly, father & son John & Anthony Uscilla caught 3 pike including a 9 lb’er)

Big **CHAIN PICKEREL** were reported from Woodcreek Pond.

ATLANTIC SALMON catches reported at Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake (2-5 lb fish).

KOKANEE SALMON are still being caught at East Twin Lake.

PANFISH are providing consistent fall action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Places to try include Savin Lake, Seymour Reservoir(s), Simsbury Town Park Ponds, Somersville Mill Pond, Tollgate Pond, Valley Falls Pond, Quillian Reservoir, Tyler Lake, West Twin Lake, Pine Acres Lake and Red Cedar Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are below typical early October levels, and continuing to make access to some coves/backwaters a challenge. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is good in the coves up and down the river. Best reports are from Wethersfield Cove, and the Middletown and Haddam Meadows areas. **CHANNEL CATFISH** continue to be caught in the river at night live lining sunfish. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** in the Haddam area are giving anglers some action but overall, it’s been to work finding fish. Relatively few **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being reported with the most reports from the Windsor to Hartford area. **BLACK CRAPPIE** are producing some excellent catches in the coves (Wethersfield Cove continues to be a very good area to target). Use a small jig tipped with 2” shiners for some action

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE The drawdown of Bashan lake for dam repairs began last week. The lake will be drawn down approximately 2 feet per week until the lake water level is down approximately 16 feet.

BESECK LAKE The lake remains drawn down approximately 12 feet.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford). Riverfront Recapture will be holding the “*Head of the Riverfront*” rowing regatta on Sunday, October 5 (8 am – 4 pm) on the CT River in Hartford from Riverside Park to just upstream of the entrance to Wethersfield Cove. Boat travel through the course area will be difficult during the race events, use extra caution or avoid the area.

GLASGO POND. Glasgo Pond is currently drawn down approximately 4 feet to facilitate pre-dam repair soil testing. Launching of boats may be difficult.

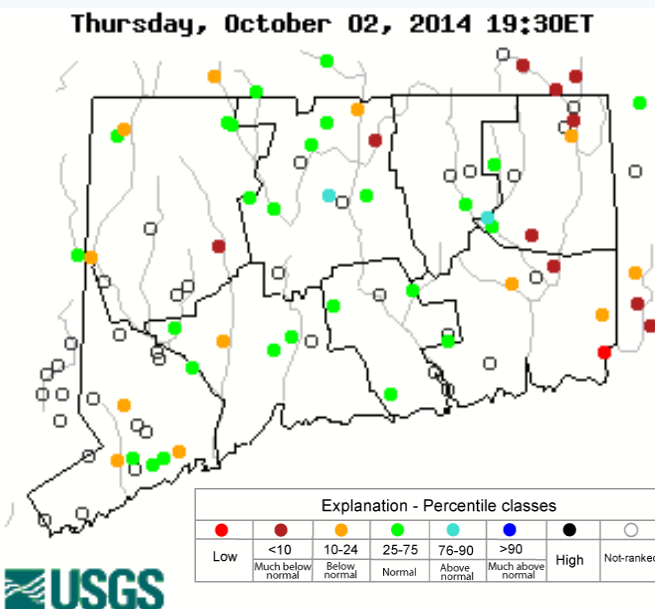
HIGHLAND LAKE. An 8 foot drawdown of Highland Lake began Wednesday (10/1).

TYLER POND. A 3 foot drawdown is ongoing.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock” Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2014 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

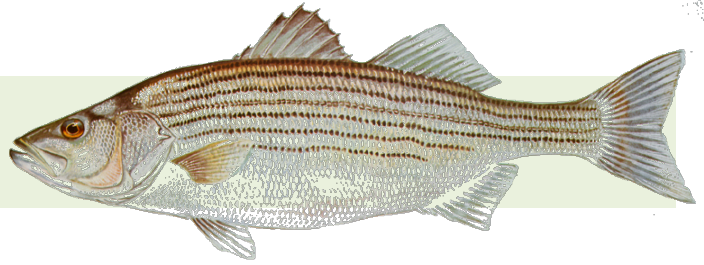
Stream flow conditions as of 10/2/2014



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the mid to upper 60's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing is fair to good and **BLUEFISH** fishing is good to excellent! Large choppers weighing in the teens have been seen harassing bunker schools throughout LIS! Fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER BLUEFISH** fishing remains good to excellent!

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good to excellent in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Lieutenant River, and Black Hall River.

SCUP (porgy) and **BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is about as good as it gets! Any of the rocky reefs in LIS will provide dynamite scup fishing! Try fishing structure in deeper water (80+ feet) for hump-head black sea bass.

LITTLE TUNNY and **ATLANTIC BONITO** are cruising around from Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, and from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Dawn is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas.

BLUE CRABBING is still hanging in there in the tidal creeks with quality "jumbo jimmies" measuring over 6 inches across being reported.

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

This is the best time of year for shore anglers to hit our coastal state parks for excellent fall fishing action! To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please refer to page 60 of the 2014 CT Angler's Guide for [Connecticut Tides](#).

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.